the expanding marine training has been reviewed in order to streamline and systematize the work of inspections, approvals, admissions and examinations to ensure transparency, responsibility and the maintenance of the higher standards of quality by technological up-gradations. The Right to Information Act has been implemented in letter and spirit thereby ensuring greater transparency to public. There is a well laid down redressal mechanism, which includes online submission of grievances directly to the Directorate General of Shipping. Besides, Citizen's Charter has been displayed on the website.

The Directorate General of Shipping and MMDs deal with registration, manning, survey, etc. of the fishing vessels, under the provisions of Merchant Shipping Act, 1958. The Directorate General of Shipping in consultation with Ministry of Agriculture initiates requisite measures from time to time to help the fisheries sector.

Road accidents and proposals of Road Safety Forum

3361. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

the details of National Highways in the country which have high rates of accidents, highway-wise, State-wise;

whether various Road Safety Forums particularly Road Safety Forum from South have sent proposals in this respect to the Central Government;

if so, the details of such proposals;

the reasons for neglecting safety matters; and

the steps taken by the Central Government to chalk out a comprehensive plan in consultation with State Government and Road Safety Forums to reduce road accidents on National Highways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) The National Highway-wise road accident data is not compiled by this Ministry. As per the report by the States/UTs, the details regarding road accident on National Highways during the years 2004,2005 and 2006 (the latest available data) for all the States/UTs are annexed, as Statement.

[Refer to the Statement appended to the answer to Unsterred Question to 3345 Part (a)]

(b) and (c) Yes, The proposals have been received by National Highways Authority of India from Road Safety Forum, Pollavaram, West Godavari District, Andhra Pradesh for:

(i) Construction of pedestrian foot overbridge, at Gundugulanu on NH 5 in Andhra Pradesh.

(ii) Declaring 100 day no accident zone between Vijayawada-Visakhapatnam zone.

(iii) Check on increasing speeds.

(iv) Site visit by the officers of Ministry and the National Highways Authority of India.

(v) Removal of liquor shops along the highways.

(d) and (e) The safety of road users is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State

Government, However, this Department has taken several steps to improve road safety, which are given below:

(i) Road safety is the integral part of road design at the planning stage for National Highways/Expressways.

(ii) Various steps to enhance road safety such as road furniture, road markings/road signs, introduction of Highways Traffic Management System using Intelligent Transport System, enhancement of discipline among contractors during construction, road safety audit on selected stretches, have been undertaken by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI).

(iii) Refresher training to Heavy Motor Vehicle drivers in the unorganized sector.

(iv) Involvement of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) for road safety activities by the Department of Road Transport and Highways and NHAI.

(v) Setting up of Model Driving Training School in the country by the Department of Road Transport and Highways.

(vi) Publicity campaign on road safety awareness through audio-visual-print media by the Department of Road Transport and Highways.

(vii) Conferring of National Award for voluntary organizations/individual for outstanding work in the field of road safety by Department of Road Transport and Highways.

(viii) Tightening of safety standards of vehicles.

(ix) Provision of cranes and ambulances to various State Governments/NGOs under National Highway Accident Relief Service Scheme by Department of Road Transport and Highways. National Highways Authority of India also provides ambulances at a distance of 50 Km. on each of its completed highways under its Operation and Maintenance contracts.

(x) Widening and improvements of National Highways from 2 lanes to 4 lanes and 4 lanes to 6 lanes etc.

Development of Bedi port

3362. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING ROAD TRANSPORT
AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

whether the Central Government has received the proposal from the State Government of Gujarat for development of Bedi port under the NMDP scheme;

if so, the time when the proposal was received; and

the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) One minor port from each Maritime State, including Magdalla in Gujarat, were identified for development under the National Maritime Development Programme during the Eleventh Five Year Plan. But, since no fund could be allocated for this purpose in the Eleventh Plan, development of the minor ports may be taken up by the State Governments themselves.